(b) the target fixed for the REC works for connecting tribal villages in the North East, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government have allocated separate fund for taking up such works in the North East?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Government has recently decided to grant interest subsidy of Rs. 16.67 crores for electrification of 415 tribal villages and 2440 dalit bastis in the country during the year 2000-01 Government has also decided to set up a Group of Ministers (GoMj to review all the existing schemes relating to electrification of tribal villages, dalit bastis and benefiting other weaker sections and suggest modifications for accelerating the pace of electrification, so that they enjoy the benefits of electrification to the same extent as other areas/sections of the population. State-wise details of electrification of tribal villages proposed to be taken in the North-East by Rural Electrification Corporation, during the year 2000-2001, arc given below;

Sl.No.	States	Electrification of tribal villages (Nos.)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	60
2.	Assam	20
3.	Manipur	60
4.	Meghalaya	10
5.	Mizoram	3
6.	Nagaland	*2*
7.	Tripura	10
	Total	165

Production of NTPC Power Plants

4811. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of NTPC power plants;

(b) the details of generation of thermal power. State-wise;

(c) what is the amount of distribution losses for the past three years;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to reduce distribution losses;

(e) if so, the details theeof;

(f) the amount of power theft that has been taking place for the last three years; and

(g) what concrete steps Government have taken to avoid such thefts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The total energy generation of NTPC power plants including Badarpur TPS during 1999-2000 was 123384 Million Units (MUs).

(b) State-wise thermal generation during 1999-2000 is given in the enclosed Statement. *(See* below)

(c) All India transmission and distribution losses during 1995-96 to 1997-98 were 22.27%, 24.53% and 24.44%, respectively.

(d) and (e) Distribution of electricity falls within the purview of State Governments/State Electricity Boards and action to reduce the losses has to be taken by them. Guidelines for reduction of transmission and distribution losses have been issued to all the State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments which *inter-alia* include the following:—

— Upgradation of operating voltages.
— Reductin of LT lines.
— Location of transformers near load centres
— Adoption of low capacity transformers near consumers premises.
— Installation of shunt capacitors.
— Improvements in construction and operation techniques.
— Systematic and the methodological approach for planning and design of distribution system on the long term basis.
— Energy Audits.,

(f) The losses being incurred by various State Governments on account of power theft are not being assessed separately.

(g) Distribution of electricity falls within the purview of the State Governments and the activities pertaining to prevention of theft of electricity

and removing of illegal connections have to be taken care of by the power utilities operating under their jurisdiction.

Theft of electricity has been made a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the utilities have to effectively implement the provisions of the law to curb the theft of electricity. Further, Guidelines for "Reduction of T&D Losses" and Energy Audit have been issued by Central Electricity Authority in 1991 and 1992 respectively to all the utilities in the country. The guidelines *inter-alia* enumerate measures of curbing theft of electricity. They have been advised to:

(i) Install meters inside tamper proof meter boxes sealed with numbered seals.

(ii) Set up vigilance squads and conduct surprise raids to check theft of energy.

(iii) Launch prosecution against persons found indulging in theft of energy.

STATEMENT

Thermal Generation (MUs) 1999-2000 (April, 1999 to March, 2000)

State Sector (Thermal)

State	Target	Actual
Delhi	2300	2538
J&K	50	0
Haryana	3450	3798
Rajasthan	7750	8213
Punjab	12783	13844
Uttar Pradesh	21300	19047
Gujarat	30727	27527
Maharashtra	42275	41530
Madhya Pradesh	19000	20142
Andhra Pradesh	28965	26727
Tamil Nadu	17867	19090
Pondichary	200	132
Karnataka	10570	8596
Kerala	935	580

State	Target	Actual
Bihar	4200	3403
Orissa	2000	3157
West Bengal	15075	16033
Assam	1040	903
Tripura	330	251
TOTAL	220817	215511

Policy on Hydro-Energy Development

4812. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1998-99, Central Government announced a policy on Hydro-Energy development with a view to exploit its vast potential in the country; and

(b) if so, what has been the progress in the development of Hydro-Power since the announcement of this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE EST THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) With a view to develop the untapped hydroelectric potential in the contry, Government announced a policy on Hydro Power Development in August 1998 which addresses to the various issues that have led to the decline of the share of hydro power and remedial measures required to accelerate it.

Government have taken various steps on the measures envisaged in the Policy. In order to encourage greater private investment, tariff for hydel projects has been rationalize procedures for transfer of techno-economic clearance have been simplified, a mechanism to cover geological risks has been evolved and State Governments have been made responsible for land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement. Small hydel projects upto 25 MW capacity have been transferred to the Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources. A massive thrust is proposed to be given for hydro development by starting work on preparing Detailed Project Reports in respect of hydro projects involving capacity of about 25,000 MW in the next 5 years.

Techno-Economic Clearance for Private Sectors Power Projects

4813. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state: